

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO USMISSION NATO

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, NZ

SUBJECT:DISCUSSION OF UN DISARMAMENT ISSUES WITH NEW ZEALAND

REFS: (A) USUN 4939; (B) USUN 4869

1. ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE CALLED IN NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR WHITE ON NOVEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) ISSUES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AT THE UNGA.

2. IKLE OUTLINED THE GENESIS OF THE ENMOD CONVENTION AND DESCRIBED THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE CCD WHICH PRODUCED THE TEXT
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NOW BEFORE THE UNGA. HE NOTED THAT THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES (ARTICLE V) OF THE CONVENTION, WHICH WERE IMPROVED SIGNIFI-

CANTLY BY THE CCD, COULD CONSTITUTE A VALUABLE PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ARMS CONTROL UNDERTAKINGS. IKLE ALSO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE USG FULLY SUPPORTS THE ENMOD CONVENTION AS NEGOTIATED AT THE CCD.

(B) THE USG BELIEVES THAT THE ENMOD CONVENTION IS A SIGNIFICANT AND POSITIVE STEP IN THE FIELD OF MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL, AND THAT IT WILL EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATE SERIOUS DANGERS POSED BY MILITARY OR ANY OTHER HOSTILE USE OF ENMOD TECHNIQUES.

(C) THE USG BELIEVES THE TEXT SHOULD BE ENDORSED AND OPENED FOR SIGNATURE PERMITTING THE CCD TO MOVE ON TO OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS.

(D) MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY GARCIA ROBLES HAS CONFUSED THE ISSUE WITH INACCURATE CRITICISM OF THE CONVENTION AT THE UNGA. THE CONVENTION DOES NOT LICENSE THE USE OF MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PHENOMENA IN WARFARE AS INDICATED BY GARCIA ROBLES. IT CLEARLY PROHIBITS ENMOD TECHNIQUES CAUSING SUCH PHENOMENA AS WELL AS ANY OTHER HAVING WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE EFFECTS AS THE MEANS OF DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE, OR INJURY TO ANY STATE PARTY.

(E) WE UNDERSTAND THAT NEW ZEALAND HAS EXPRESSED SOME UNSPECIFIED RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE ENMOD CONVENTION AND WOULD WELCOME SOME INDICATION OF WHAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE.

3. AMBASSADOR WHITE ASKED HIS SECOND SECRETARY (LARKINDALE) WHO WAS MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUE TO RESPOND. LARKINDALE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE THRESHOLD LANGUAGE IN THE CONVENTION, I.E. "WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE EFFECTS". THE PROBLEM IS MAINLY ONE OF THE POSSIBLE PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THIS LANGUAGE PROVIDES A LOOPHOLE. NEW ZEALAND HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVENTION. LARKINDALE OBSERVED THAT SINCE
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NEW ZEALAND WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE CCD AND HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE OVERLY ASSERTIVE ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL THE PUBLIC DEBATE IS COMPLETED.

4. WHITE SAID THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT SUPPORT THE UNGA RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ENMOD CONVENTION.

5. IKLE RECALLED THE LONG STANDING NEW ZEALAND INTEREST IN

THE CTB ISSUE AND SAID THAT THE US APPRECIATES NEW ZEALAND EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A REASONABLE CTB RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH QUOTE CONDEMNS ALL NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS, IN WHATEVER ENVIRONMENT THEY MAY BE CONDUCTED END QUOTE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION REGARDLESS OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. IKLE SAID THAT EVEN IF THE US WAS UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE FINAL RESOLUTION, WE WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE IT IMPROVED IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS. THE USE OF THE WORD "EFFECTIVE"

IS HELPFUL IN DESCRIBING THE TYPE OF CTB AGREEMENT WE DESIRE TO CONCLUDE, BUT THE VERIFICATION PROBLEM NEEDS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED MORE EXPLICITLY. IN ADDITION, THE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNE'S) IN THE CONTEXT OF A CTB IS NOT RECOGNIZED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. IKLE NOTED THAT GOVERNOR CARTER HAD MADE CLEAR THAT ANY CESSATION OF NUCLEAR TESTING SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH WEAPONS AND PNE'S.

6. WHITE SAID THAT NEW ZEALAND'S MOTIVATION FOR PUTTING FORWARD A CTB RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT WAS THAT IF SUCH A MODERATE RES WERE NOT PUT FORWARD, OTHERS WOULD COME FORWARD WITH MORE EXTREME PROPOSALS. WHILE NEW ZEALAND WOULD PREFER TO DEVELOP A CTB RES WHICH THE US COULD SUPPORT, LARKINDALE SAID THAT THE CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE WAS DIFFICULT TO MODIFY SINCE IT HAS BEEN USED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND REPRESENTS THE GENUINE VIEWS OF MANY STATES.

7. IKLE SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND NEW ZEALAND CONTINUE TO
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KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THESE AND OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, IN WASHINGTON, WELLINGTON, AND AT THE UN. KISSINGER

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